

DFB



IN THE NEWS

<http://blind.ky.gov>

May 2004 Issue

TRINA ROBERTS CHOSEN AS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY!

Trina Roberts is our May employee of the month. Trina has worked with the Department for the Blind for not quite a year, but fits in so well with the flow of central office staff, that it seems like she has always been here. She always has a smile and a positive attitude and makes the office atmosphere in Central Office a brighter place just by her being there.

Trina came to DFB from the Department of Adult Education and Literacy when that department was merged with the Council on Post-secondary Education. She has 26 years of experience in state government. She almost got out of New Employee Orientation because everyone forgot she was a new employee.

Trina is responsible for all the paperwork that is involved in the processing of personnel actions for the Department. She makes it look easy as she works behind the scenes to get the job done efficiently.

She is also the assistant to the State Rehabilitation Council for the Department. She is responsible for arranging Council meetings and disseminating information to each Council member.

Trina is always willing to jump in and assist in any endeavor, awards committees for the Cabinet, Fall Conference Committee work and most recently has agreed to survey Independent Living consumers for a consumer satisfaction survey. We are so proud to have Trina Roberts as a part of our DFB family! Congratulations Trina!

LOUISVILLE'S CHARLOTTE WEAVER RECEIVES AWARD



On April 8, Charlotte Weaver was presented with the University of Louisville Disability Resource Center Outstanding Service award. Charlotte was nominated by Robert Brown, a DFB consumer, and he stated in his nomination, "When I think of all the things that Charlotte does behind the scenes to facilitate all that has to be done for the clients of the Department for the Blind, I get overwhelmed. Her ability to coordinate all that has to be done is nothing short of amazing. As one of those clients (and U of L students), I know that whenever I had any question about where I was in the process, I could count on Charlotte to know. Whether it was the rescheduling of a low vision exam or the faxing of information to the bookstore, Charlotte was always there for me and I know for all of the other clients that she was responsible for. Her professionalism, kindness and reassurance always made such a difference in my life. Thank you, Charlotte, for being such a calming and reassuring voice in the often chaotic world of this student."

Charlotte is an outstanding candidate for this recognition not only for the work that she does but also as one example of the many people who facilitate the needs of the visually challenged citizens of our community. Charlotte, in her thirty years with DFB, has worked with many rehab counselors in accomplishing the goals of our agency. In attendance with Charlotte to acknowledge her award were Bob Bird, Ann Burge, Russell Lunsford, and Cecy Thompson. Our kudos and congratulations to Charlotte, our true asset to Louisville's Counseling Office!

KUDOS TO STEVE NOBLE

Steve Noble, policy analyst for the KATS Network, served as a presenter at the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference on March 6, where he gave a presentation entitled "Accessible Information Technology in Schools: Creating Effective Policy for Your District."

Also, during the CSUN Technology and Persons with Disabilities conference, he co-presented a session entitled "Digital Textbooks Come of Age" on March 18, and served as an invited panelist for a session called "Publisher Provided E-Text: The Importance of File Formats in Accessible Textbook Legislation" on March 19.

Also during March, Steve was elected as President of the Board of Directors for the *Learning Disabilities Association of Kentucky*, and was additionally elected to serve on the National Board of Directors for the *Learning Disabilities Association of America*. Steve was also appointed to serve on the Office of Special Instructional Services (OSIS) Advisory Committee at the Kentucky Department of Education. The OSIS Advisory Committee provides input to KDE on matters that include the delivery of special education services and the administration of the Kentucky School for the Blind.

The Kentucky General Assembly Honors Charles Noble

Steve Noble's father, Charles Noble, who passed away this past summer, was honored during this year's legislative session with a memorial resolution in the Kentucky Senate on March 23. State Senator Lindy Casebier introduced the memorial as Senate Resolution 159. The resolution recognizes Charles Noble's military service in the Korean War and his community leadership as past president of the Electrical Workers local union in Louisville. The text of SR 159 can be accessed through the LRC's website at:

<http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/record/04rs/SR159.htm>

DFB SUPPLIES JAWS PROGRAM FOR LOCAL PASTOR

(Article submitted by Twyla Hammons from The
Jackson County Times)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department for the Blind for all the services that they have provided for me over the past few months. The Department has provided various items for me over the past few months that has really been a great blessing in my life. The items provided have also aided tremendously in my ministry. I am the pastor of The House Of Prayer, located on Boss Vaughn Road, in Annville, KY. Not only has the Department for the Blind helped me at home, but also in my work for the Lord. I have a computer system with the JAWS program installed in it. JAWS is an acronym for Job Access With Speech. Basically, what this system does is read the print on a computer monitor. I attended the Charles McDowell Center in Louisville, KY, for two weeks of training to learn how to use this system. At the Center, they teach blind people how to use a computer without a mouse or monitor. You are taught to totally depend on JAWS. For anything that a sighted person can do with a computer mouse, there is a key command on the keyboard that will do the same thing. Since I have received this training, it has literally opened up a whole new world to me. Before attending the McDowell Center, I couldn't even turn on a computer. Now, I am doing e-mails, surfing the web, reading on-line newspapers, and the whole nine yards. My ministry at the church has also benefited from this also. I now have unlimited access to all sorts of inspirational material. I have also been provided with a Visual-Tech (a machine that helps me to be able to see how to read and write). With this, I am able to read such small print as a little pocket New Testament with no problem at all. A Max-Port System (a portable visual-

tech) was also provided for me. The best way that I can describe this would be an electronic pair of glasses. This item can be taken right into the pulpit with me on Sunday to be able to read my scriptures. I have also received talking watches, calculators, key chains, thermometers, clocks, cooking devices, and several other items too numerous to mention. Each of these is really helpful to me. While at the McDowell Center, I also received training in Mobility (using a cane), Braille, Audio Equipment and Independent Living. The instructors there are wonderful people, willing to do all they can to help others. The reason they are so good at what they do is because they all are totally blind. If there is anyone that you know who could benefit from these services, please contact the Department for the Blind in Somerset, KY. Also, if I can do anything to help any of you with visual problems, just let me know. I would be more than glad to be able to give back a little of what the Department for the Blind has given to me.

Rev. Donnie Parrett
1956 Asa Flat Rd.
Annville, KY 40402
Phone: 606-364-3321

HAMMONS DOES IT AGAIN!!



Jerry Carr knows that he's a lucky man to have been working at Daniel Boone Development Council (DBDC) last year. His employment literally led to a life-altering experience, not only for Carr, but

for his wife and brother, as well. It began last year when Carr started losing sight in his left eye. After going for a checkup, Huffman & Huffman in London scheduled him for cataract surgery.

When his right eye then clouded over, Carr who had worked for DBDC since November 1998, made the decision to quit because he worried that he was going blind. Jackson County DBDC Office Manager, Annette Deaton, suggested to Susan Patton, a WIA caseworker for DBDC in Jackson County, that she notify Twyla Hammons, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Kentucky Department for the Blind.

“I’d never even heard of the Kentucky Department for the Blind before,” admitted Carr. Thanks to the action of the DBDC staff, Carr had surgery for the second time in October 2003, and was back at work in no time. “They took care of all my bills,” said Carr.

The story is a little different, however, for Carr’s wife, Cheryl Ann. In February 2004, while having her eyes checked at the Wal-Mart Eye Center in London, she learned that she had developed glaucoma and macular degeneration, two debilitating eye diseases. Unfortunately, she didn’t get help in time to save her vision. However, through Patton, they again looked toward the Kentucky Department for the Blind to help them.

Although nothing could be done about Cheryl Ann’s 20/200 vision, the Department for the Blind made her life easier by giving her several helpful “tools,” some of which sound as if they came right out of Disney’s cartoon feature, “The Beauty and the Beast.” If she needs to know the time her clock “speaks” and tells her the time. In addition, she received a device that beeps a warning when a teacup is nearing overflow. “She’s even got a key ring that ‘hollers’ to let you know where it’s at,” said Carr. Cheryl Ann now uses a Braille telephone and a Braille Bible, too. The agency also gave her a cane, and fixed the knobs on her stove and microwave. “The knobs have notches that

help her feel the numbers,” said Carr. Even though his wife has some serious problems, Carr is optimistic. “It’s in the Lord’s hands, now,” he said.

But the story doesn’t end there. The truck-driving career of Carr’s brother, Everett, was cut short when he began hitting curbs and driving off the road. When he hit a cow near Annville on Rt. 577, and totaled his truck, he decided that was it. He feared the next time that he might hit a person. One day while visiting Carr, Everett mentioned that he couldn’t see out of his left eye. Carr immediately put him in touch with Hammons. Like his brother, Jerry, Everett discovered he had cataracts. Cataract surgery in December 2003 restored him, not only to 20/20 vision, but to his old truck-driving job, as well. The Department for the Blind, located in Somerset, partners with DBDC in bringing aid to people who need it. “They don’t have to be completely blind.” There are also no income restrictions.

If you know anyone with vision problems that could be helped by this agency, please call Twyla Hammons at the Kentucky Department for the Blind (606) 677-4042 or 1-800-895-3863. Hammons’ e-mail address is: Twyla.Hammons@ky.gov

Cheryl Ann recently gained employment through Lee Jones at DBDC Jobsight.



The MAC just finished receiving a 10-week internship with the Louisville School of Massage intern, Mike Rogers. During his time here, the consumers expressed that the sessions with Mike were very beneficial. Not only did the massages help the consumers relax, they also

took away the tension and the everyday stress from their muscles. Mike also came to the Center on April 5, 2004, during the MAC Health Week, and gave massages to the staff, which they thoroughly enjoyed and found very beneficial to their health. The Louisville School of Massage has chosen the MAC for their internship for the past five years, and I have supervised nine interns during this time. It is a great experience for the consumers to receive this service, whereas they may not have the chance to do so elsewhere.

Submitted by Pam Thompson RN

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PATRIOTIC SALAD

1 6-ounce package strawberry-flavored gelatin

1 10-ounce package frozen strawberries

1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened

1 8-ounce carton sour cream

¾ cup salad dressing or mayonnaise

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 envelope unflavored gelatin

1 6-ounce package blackberry-flavored gelatin

2 cups frozen blueberries

Lightly oil an 11-12 cup mold; set aside. Pour 2 cups boiling water over the strawberry gelatin; stir until the gelatin is dissolved. Carefully stir in the frozen strawberries. Chill until the mixture begins to thicken. To quick-chill gelatin, place the bowl of gelatin over a bowl of ice water; stir until partially set. Stir to evenly distribute the strawberries and turn

the mixture into the prepared mold. Refrigerate.

In a small bowl beat cream cheese, sour cream, salad dressing or mayonnaise, and lemon juice until the mixture is smooth.

In a small custard cup sprinkle the unflavored gelatin into ¼ cup cold water. Place the custard cup in a skillet with ½ inch of boiling water. Stir the gelatin until dissolved. Stir the unflavored gelatin mixture into the cream cheese mixture. Beat until well blended. Carefully spoon the gelatin-cream cheese mixture over the strawberry mixture. Spread the gelatin-cream cheese mixture evenly to the edge of the mold. Refrigerate.

Pour 2 cups of boiling water over the blackberry gelatin and stir until the gelatin is dissolved. Add ½ cup cold water and the blueberries; stir. Chill until the mixture begins to thicken. Stir again to distribute the blueberries. Spoon the mixture over the cream cheese layer in the mold and spread evenly to the edge of the mold.

Refrigerate the gelatin mold until it is firm, overnight or several hours. Unmold onto a serving dish.

To unmold gelatin, loosen the edges of the mixture from the sides of the mold with the tip of a sharp knife or thin metal spatula. Set the mold in warm (not hot) water to the depth of the gelatin contents. Hold about 5 seconds. Tilt or shake the mold gently to loosen. Invert the serving plate on top of the mold. Hold both together firmly and invert. Shake the mold gently until the gelatin slips from the mold onto the serving dish or plate. If the gelatin doesn't release, repeat the process. Makes 12 servings.

TIP: For a successful layered gelatin salad, add the second layer when the first layer appears firm but is slightly sticky to the touch. At this stage the gelatin will retain a fingerprint. If the first layer is chilled too long, the second layer won't adhere; if it is not chilled long enough, the layers run together.



PAUL REVERE'S MOTHER: "I don't care where you think you have to go, young man. Midnight is past your curfew!"

MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY'S MOTHER: "I don't mind you having a garden, Mary, but does it have to be growing under your bed?"

MONA LISA'S MOTHER: "After all that money your father and I spent on braces, Mona, that's the biggest smile you can give us?"

HUMPTY DUMPTY'S MOTHER: "Humpty, if I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times not to sit on that wall. But would you listen to me? Nooooo!"

COLUMBUS' MOTHER: "I don't care what you've discovered, Christopher. You still could have written!"

BABE RUTH'S MOTHER: "Babe, how many times have I told you to quit playing ball in the house! That's the third broken window this week!"

MICHELANGELO'S MOTHER: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

NAPOLEON'S MOTHER: "All right, Napoleon. If you aren't hiding your report card inside your jacket, then take your hand out of there and prove it!"

CUSTER'S MOTHER: "Now, George, remember what I told you - don't go biting off more than you can chew!"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MOTHER: "Again with the stovepipe hat, Abe? Can't you just wear a baseball cap like the other kids?"

BARNEY'S MOTHER: "I realize strained plums are your favorite, Barney, but you're starting to look a little purple."

MARY'S MOTHER: "I'm not upset that your lamb followed you to school, Mary, but I would like to know how he got a better grade than you."

BATMAN'S MOTHER: "It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance is going to be?"

GOLDILOCKS' MOTHER: "I've got a bill here for a busted chair from the Bear

family. You know anything about this, Goldie?"

LITTLE MISS MUFFET'S MOTHER:
"Well, all I've got to say is if you don't get off your tuffet and start cleaning your room, there'll be a lot more spiders around here!"

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S MOTHER: "But, Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER:
"The next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac, you can kiss your allowance good-bye!"

JONAH'S MOTHER: "That's a nice story, but now tell me where you've really been for the last three days."

SUPERMAN'S MOTHER: "Clark, your father and I have discussed it, and we've decided you can have your own telephone line. Now will you quit spending so much time in all those phone booths?"

THOMAS EDISON'S MOTHER: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb, Thomas. Now turn off that light and get to bed!"

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

DID YOU KNOW???

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, legal holiday, is observed annually on the last Monday in May in most of the United States, in honor of the nation's armed services personnel killed in wartime. The holiday, originally called Decoration Day, is traditionally marked by parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, and the decoration of graves with flowers and flags, hence the original name. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American Civil War dead. It was observed on May 30 until 1971, when most states changed to a newly established federal schedule of holiday observance. Confederate Memorial Day, formerly a legal holiday in many southern states, is still observed on the fourth Monday in April in Alabama, the last Monday in April in Mississippi, and April 26 in Florida and Georgia.

EMPLOYEES SPOTLIGHT

BIRTHDAYS:

May 2 **Jimmy Johns**

May 2 **Charlotte Weaver**

May 12 **Denise Placido**

May 14 **Jeanne Lione**

May 14 **Susan Mills**

May 20 **Ann Burge**

May 22 **Jeff Garrison**

May 24 **Mary E. Cameron**

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 9 **Donna Smith (37**
years)

May 19 **Marcia & Marvin**
Egbert (31 years)

